



TIME

# KNIGHT

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## COINS COMMEMORATE VILNIUS UNIVERSITY 425th ANNIVERSARY



**ABOVE: Silver 50 Litu**

The Bank of Lithuania has issued a collector's silver proof 50 litų coin, as well as a circulating cupro-nickel 1 litas coin to commemorate the 425th anniversary of the founding of Vilnius University. The coin was minted by the Mint of Lithuania, and was issued on April 20, 2004. It was designed by sculptor Rytas Jonas Belevičius.

The 50 litų coin is struck in .925 proof silver with a diameter of 38.61 mm. and a weight of 28.28 gr. The coin has a mirror surface with matte relief. The mintage is 2,000 pieces.

The circulating commemorative 1 litas coin is cupro-nickel and has a mintage of 200,000 pieces. It has a diameter of 22.3 mm. and a weight of 6.25 grams.

The obverse of both coins contain the Vytis emblem, the emblem of the Republic of Lithuania, in the center, arranged in a circle of a floral ornament. At the top appears "LIETUVA" for "Lithuania," and the denomination opposite it at the bottom, either "50 LITŲ," or "1 LITAS." The 50 litų also bears the "LMK" within a circle mintmark of the Mint of Lithuania at the 4 o'clock position.

The reverse design features a "bird's eye" view of the institution, encircled with the legend "VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS 425." On the 50 litų, on right side are the years "1579" and "2004" placed vertically. These two dates can be

## LNA MEETING AT ANA CONVENTION IN PITTSBURGH SATURDAY AUGUST 21

Our Lithuanian Numismatic Association will be meeting on Saturday, August 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the American Numismatic Association Convention being held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the Convention Center downtown. Please check the official schedule for confirmation, and also the room number. Information about the Convention is on the website of the ANA at: [www.money.org](http://www.money.org).

We invite our members and friends to come to our meeting, as well as those who may be interested in our hobby speciality. Find out what Lithuanian numismatics is all about! Also, feel free to bring your Lithuanian numismatic items for "show and tell." For further information, contact our director Alex Radžius at: [Lithnumis@hotmail.com](mailto:Lithnumis@hotmail.com). We'll see you in Pittsburgh!



**LEFT: 1 Litas**

alternatively viewed by tilting the coin in the light. This is the first time that latent image technology has been used on a Lithuanian coin. The 1 litas version just has the single date minted normally, "2004."

The edge of the 50 litų bears the inscription, "UNIVERSITAS VILNESIS \*," while the 1 litas version bears a pattern of alternating reeding and plain edge.

A colorful brochure describing the coin and giving a history of Vilnius University has been issued by the Bank of Lithuania. The history portion is reproduced here on page 6.

The 50 litų is being offered for sale by the Bank of Lithuania for the price of 90 LTL with the presentation  
(Continued on page 7...)



# On the meaning of the word KAPA

Aleksandras Radžius

KAPA (plural KAPOS) was the word used in medieval Lithuania to describe quantities of coins, initially 60 coins and later 100 coins. Analogous terms in other cultures are the Czech KOPA = 60 groschen (plural KOPY) and the German SCHOCK = 60 groschen (plural SCHOCKE). Further, Lithuanian numismatists believe that KAPA was also the term for cast silver ingots produced by medieval Lithuanians.

If the word KAPA is indeed of Lithuanian origin, I propose that it was derived from the noun 'KAUPA' - a heap, a pile. Such an origin would explain why the term was applied to variable quantities of coins and why silver ingots were cast by medieval Lithuanians in the first place.

Originally KAPA meant '60 notags'.<sup>1</sup> Notag was a name in Lithuania for a pennyweight unit of weight during the Viking Era (about 700 to about 1200 AD). With a pennyweight being about 22 - 28 grains (about 1.4 - 1.8 grams), 60 notags would represent about 1,400 - 1,680 grains (about 84 - 108 grams). This weight range matches that of the Lithuania semi-round ingots. Interestingly, during the Viking Era, only silver pennyweight coins circulated in Europe.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Later, KAPA meant '60 groschen'.<sup>1</sup> Since early groschen were coins of about two pennyweight, weighing about 43 - 57 grains (about 2.8 - 3.7 grams). Sixty groschen would have represent about 2,580 - 3,420 grains (about 168 - 222 grams) of silver. And this is the weight range of three-sided Lithuanian ingots. It is interesting that this weight range approaches that of the MARK, another medieval term for a large quantity of silver. For example, by Imperial decree of 1554, the Cologne silver mark was to weight 3,609 grains (233.9 grams).

Even later, KAPA meant '100 groschen'<sup>1</sup> which would represent about 5,700 - 4,300 grains (about 280 - 370 grams) of silver.

It appears that KAPA is but another quantifiable, thought not necessarily a precise term in the natural system of weights and measures which we today call the 'English System'. Actually, the system is both ancient and universal. Examples in Lithuanian of other unprecise but quantifiable measures are ŽIUPSNIŠ - 'pinch', SAUJA - 'handful', AKRAS - 'acre' area of land that can be plowed by one

man and one horse. Examples of relatively more precise measures are SIEKSNIS - 'fathom', distance between the fingertips of outstretched hands and COLIS - 'inch', distance from tip of the thumb to its knuckle. This system is still in use today and it has the advantage of being understandable and quantifiable by all peoples, since it uses only the human body parts, human capabilities and naturally occurring objects as standards. Thus, if KAPA is translated as 'a heap' it becomes very applicable to variable quantities of variable coins.

The supposition that KAPA means 'a heap' also explains why silver ingots were cast during the medieval period by peoples such the Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Russians of Novgorod, Tartars and Bulgarians. That is, by peoples who did not have their own deposits of silver but had vast forests, and through whose lands trade routes had existed for millenniums. Traders would bring silver coins of unknown purity from Asia and the Near East. Since at the time, silver was more important as a raw material for manufacturing household goods and decorative items than as coinage, so most of these coins would have been melted down. By the middle ages, Westen Europe was greatly deforested, unlike the lands between the Baltic and the Black



A Prague groschen minted by Wenceslaus II (1278-1305), 56.5 grains (3.66 grams), 1 1/16 inch (27 mm) diam., 93.8% silver.

Seas. With such a ready source of fuel, it was only natural to have a substantial portion of this refining work performed by peoples living along this trade route. Interestingly, the term 'sterling' silver, is believed by some numismatists to be derived from 'easterling', i.e., silver coming from the east.

Thus, the concept of 'a heap' used simultaneously to designate a specific number of coins and a refined mass of silver equal in value



to such a coin count, does make intuitive, economic, and linguistic sense.

The hypothesis that KAPA is derived from the verb KAPOTI - to chop<sup>5</sup>, does not hold up under scrutiny. The concept of 'chopping' can not be made to explain the use of the word KAPA to designate different quantities of different types of coins over time. Further, the concept of 'chopping' supposes that the silver ingots were cut to produce planchets for minting coins. Though such a process might be probable with the long narrow ingots produced in Lithuania or Novgorod, it is improbable that this would have been done with the rhombic Chernigov or Kiev ingots or the irregularly shaped ingot of the Tartars or the Bulgars. Further, since there were no silver deposits in Lithuania, Ukraine,

Novgorod, Tartary or the lands of the Bulgars, the KAPOTI hypothesis suggests that silver came into the country as coins, was refined into ingots and that these ingots were cut and reminted into coins. Economically this does not make any sense.

The high purity of ingots produced in Lithuania in contrast to the variability in silver content of early Lithuanian coins (42% to 94% silver) and suggests that Lithuanian kings either debased the silver from Lithuanian ingots or they used foreign coins as planchets to mint Lithuanian coins. Economic consideration favor the later option as being more plausible. And, unlike Lithuanian ingots, a high percentage of ingots produced in Novgorod were cast in two layers, with the bottom layer being debased<sup>1</sup>.

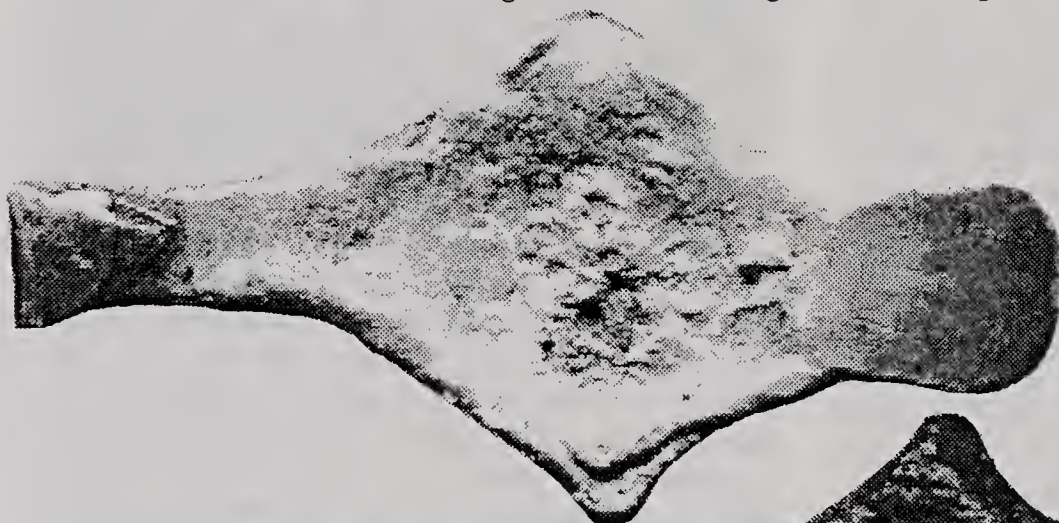


Top view

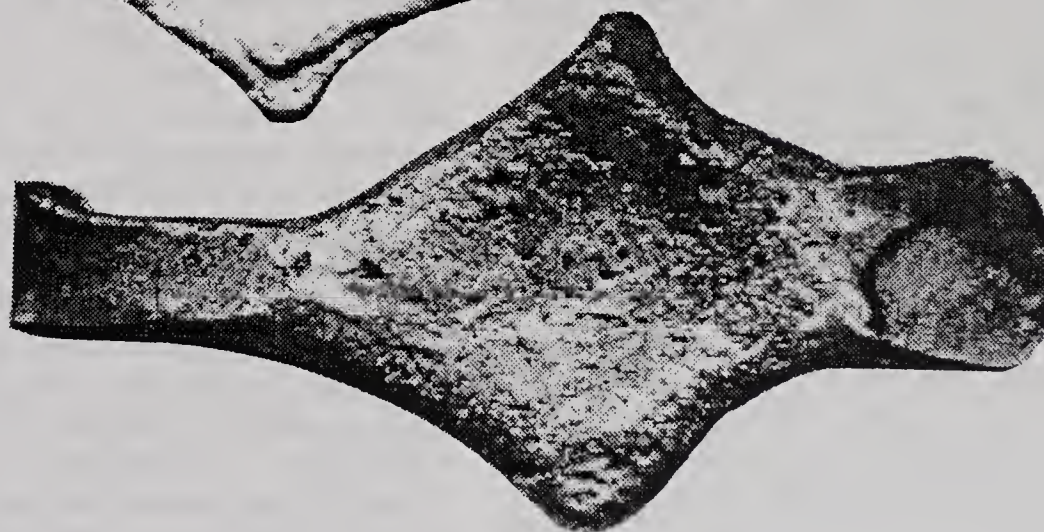


Bottom view

Lithuanian semi-round ingot, about 1,560 grains (101.1 grams), 127 x 12 mm.



Top view



Bottom view

Ukrainian Chernigov ingot, about 2,963 grains (192 grams), 125 x 63 x 8 mm.

Full size examples of two types of silver ingots cast by nations along the northern spur of the Silk Road, i.e., the trade route between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.



# 63 coin Vilnius hoard report published!

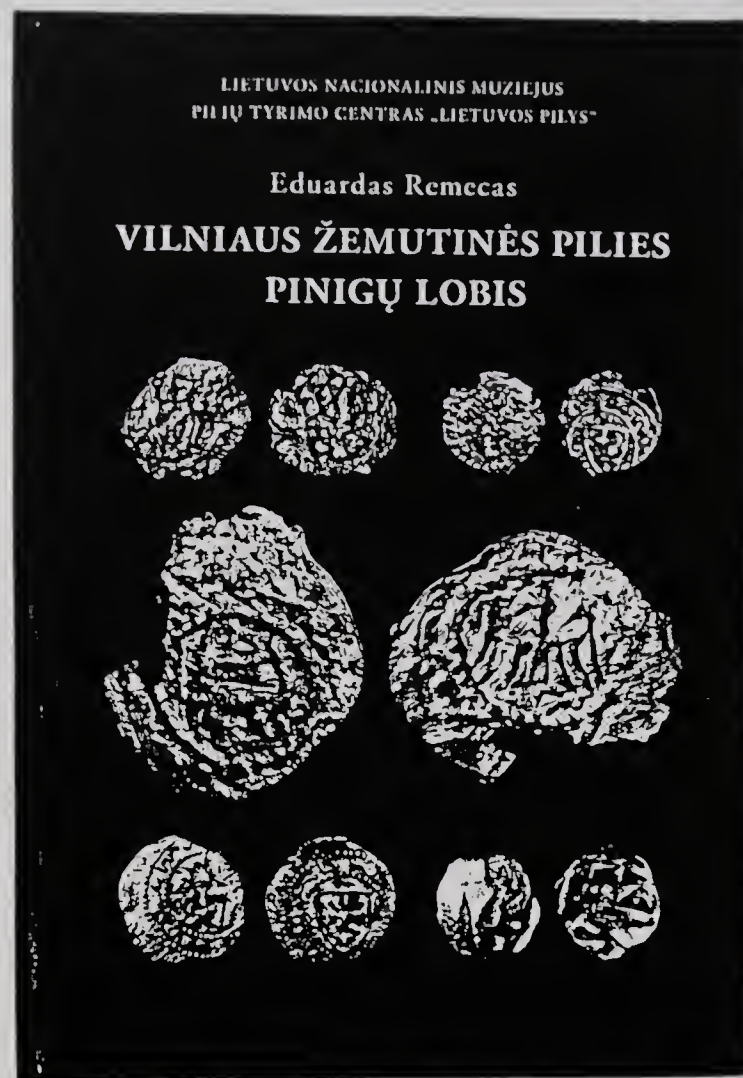
Aleksandras Radžius

We have all looked forward to the report on the 63 coins found in Vilnius at the Lower Castle in early July of 2002. Well, it is out and Eduardas Remecas is the author. The report has aspects which have set the standard by which all future reports of Lithuanian numismatic finds will be gauged. It also has aspects that need to be addressed and corrected before future reports are published and it has aspects that suggest additional studies should be made and additional inferences be forwarded from the data of this find.

The report is titled **VILNIAUS ŽEMUTINĖS PILIES PINIGŲ LOBIS** (Coin hoard of the Vilnius Lower Castle). The 107 page report is bilingual in Lithuanian and English and is printed on high quality glossy paper. It is hard cover and well bound. It's size is about 6 3/4 by 9 3/4 inches. This book is a must for anyone interested in medieval Lithuanian coins. To inquire about obtaining the book, Eduardas Remecas can be reached at [numizmatika@lnm.lt](mailto:numizmatika@lnm.lt).

The photographs of find items are exquisite! Full-size photographs of each item before cleaning and after cleaning are presented as well as 3x enlargements. As a result, this report presents an opportunity for numismatists to study these coins who in all probability will never be able to handle them. Additionally, such fine photographs provide an excellent record of each coin for future identification in the event any of them should end up in other hands. I pray that all future finds are photographed as well as these were.

The fact that the report is bi-lingual should set the standard for all future reports of Lithuanian numismatic finds. Too much high quality historical material is available only in Lithuanian. It goes without saying that our Lithuanian culture has much to gain if this material is made available to the English speaking populations. Unfortunately the English of this report is the best that could be learned in a classroom. However, as with all languages, the classroom knowledge must be fine tuned by experience in the native culture and in the speciality of a chosen discipline, in this case numismatics. Since this experience was lacking, the English often sounds awkward at best or misleading or inappropriate at worst. For example from page 71 "... as well as of Jogaila's first Polish coins forged till 1389." The segment in Lithuanian is "... bei pirmosios Jogailos lenkiškos monetos kaldintos iki 1389 m." Clearly the translation of **KALDINTOS** as **FORGED** is wrong, **MINTED** should have been used. However, the non-Lithuanian reader does not have the luxury of referring to the Lithuanian text. Left only with the English version, the reader is left scratching his head



wondering who could have been "forging" (counterfeiting) Jogaila's Polish coins till 1389 or alternatively, he might begin wondering how the technology of "forging" coins differed from that of minting or casting coins. Further on the same page is the sentence "The ultimate coin of this hoard is a fragment (1/8 part) of a Czech groats." Skipping over the awkwardness of 'a Czech groats', the Lithuanian sentence reads "Paskutinioji lobio moneta yra Čekijos grašio fragmentas (1/8 dalis)." Without addressing the appropriateness of using "paskutinioji" (in my opinion the sentence should have read "Taip pat buvo rasta Čekijos grašio fragmentas (1/8 dalis)." (Also found was a fragment of a Prague groschen (1/8 part).), under no circumstances is it possible for **ULTIMATE** to be the appropriate translation of **PASKUTINIOJI**. **PASKUTINIS** can only be translated as **LAST**! But again, being left only with the English version one is left wondering - "ultimate", how? As the highlight of all the coins found? And if so, how can the fragment of a common Prague groschen be the highlight (ultimate) of the find when also found were over a score of coins of which only a few examples were previously known, and if a completely unknown type



of coin was also found? How is a fragment of a common Prague groschen an “ultimate”? I am sure that neither Remecas nor the translator wishes the English speaking reader to venture into these paths of confusion. Additionally, a groat was an English four pennyweight coin. European groschen were two pennyweight coins. Neither in medieval Europe nor now is a groat synonymous with a groschen.

Improving English language reports is simple. Future report can be written bilingually in Lithuania and the Lithuanian and English versions can be sent to any number of bilingual numismatists here in the States. The English version can be corrected and cleaned up to sound more English. All three versions would be returned to Lithuania. Not only would the report be greatly improved, but the translator could compare his or her original translation with the improved version, thereby learning the appropriate and idiomatic English word usages which can never be learned from a text book or in a class room.

Noteworthy is a table on page 18 showing the variations in attributions of the various types of early Lithuanian coins. However, one yearns for this work to be extended with information as to why each researcher made his attribution the way he did. Also, the years minting are given without any explanation how these date were inferred.

Remecas's work in presenting the varieties of each coin type is most valuable, but numismatics is a visual media and this aspect of his work would have been enhanced if specific details differentiating each die variety would have been presented photographically as is done by American numismatists.

Very troubling is Remecas's presentation of Ivanauskas's interpretation of a coin legend (p. 38) which does not match what Ivanauskas had published. Further, it's a bit disturbing to see Cyrillic presented in a medieval font and also using a letter that was not used till hundreds of years later. One wants to see the Cyrillic either only in archaic fonts and letters or in modern fonts and letters, but not as a mixture.

Problematic also are concepts presented didactically which can not be verified, but rather, are found to have explanations at variance to the one presented in the text. One such example in the Lithuanian text (p. 32) is “Žuvis simbolizavo atsivertimą iš kito tikėjimo, naujakrikščia.” (A fish symbolizes conversion from another faith, a neophyte.) Interestingly, this sentence is not included in the English version of the report. However, a review of Christian and secular encyclopedia fails to verify this concept. Instead, a fish is consistently presented as a sign Christians used to identify themselves one to the other. Although exploring how, when and from whom Lithuanians first experienced Christianity and how these first contacts left their mark on Lithuanian Christianity, *even to this day*, is outside the scope of this article, it

must be acknowledged that Eastern Christianity influenced Lithuanians before the Poles or Germans began exerting their versions of Christianity on Lithuanians. As such, the use of the Apostolic Cross as Jogalia's personal arms and the fish as a sign to identify one Christian to another takes on different political implications and suggests a minting date prior to 1384, the year when King Jogalia began making treaties with the Lord of Moscow, the Grandmaster of the Teutonic Order and the Polish nobles of Lachia which would have the consequence of aligning Lithuania with the East or the West and a formal declaration of Lithuania as a Western or as an Eastern Christian Kingdom.

It must also be noted that even though the concept of ‘obverse’ and ‘reverse’ of a coin are of relatively recent origin and were not items of concern in medieval Lithuania, one or the other side of the coin has to be presented as the ‘obverse’. In this report, as with other Lithuanian numismatists, though not all, one senses a bias. For example with the fish coin, the side with Jogalia's heraldic arms is presented as the reverse and the reason given is that a letter or two can be made out on the fish side and a “rule” is invoked whereby the side ‘identifying’ the King is the obverse. Well, the personal arms also ‘identifies’ the King and is a more distinctive identifier than a legend along the edge of the coin. And even though such a ‘rule’ with respect to medieval Lithuanian coinage is impossible to prove or disprove, I would have displayed the side with Jogalia's personal arms as the obverse and the side with the fish as the reverse.

With the coin having King Jogalia's heraldic personal arms on one side and a non-heraldic equestrian figure on the other the situation is even more clear cut. Both sides of the coin have identical legends, yet the side with the arms of the King is relegated to ‘reverse’ and the non-heraldic equestrian figure, one not unlike equestrian figures found on medieval European coins going back to the 11th century. True, King Jogalia does make the equestrian figure the arms of the Lithuanian Empire. But he does not do this till about 1385 and on this coin the figure is non-heraldic, thus it is not the arms of the Lithuanian Empire. Clearly, the personal arms of the King should have identified the obverse of the coin.

Similarly with the PECHAT coins. The cross and spearpoint are non-specific signs of power, but PECHAT connotes OFFICIAL. One can't help but wonder if Latin, not Church Slavic, had been the chancery language of the Lithuanian Kingdom and if instead of PECHAT, SIGILLUM would have been used on the coin, would that side be designated as the reverse?

And possibly the worst example is the coin with the imperial eagle on one side and a beast on the other. The beast is totally unidentifiable at this time, nonetheless, it is designated as the obverse. One can



# VILNIUS UNIVERSITY



Vilnius University, which celebrates its 425<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, is the oldest establishment of higher education in Lithuania. Established in 1579, for a long time it became the eastern-most European university spreading the light of learning not only to ethnic Lithuania, the multinational Grand Duchy of Lithuania, but also to Central and Eastern Europe. Some works of the University graduates (Mathias Casimir Sarbievius, Kazimieras Semenavičius et al.) exerted influence over the civilisation and culture of the whole Europe.

The genesis of Vilnius University was both a consequence of the development of European civilisation and a fruit of the state's policy. It was a Christian establishment of education, founded just 200 years following Lithuania's Christianization. Lithuania managed to follow this route – from Christianization to university – considerably faster than a number of other European countries. Shortly after Christianization, parish schools spread across Lithuania and in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century high schools – colleges – began to appear.

The founding of Vilnius University was spurred directly by Reformation and competition among the advocates of Catholic renewal in the field of education development. As the Protestants hurried to establish a college of their own, the Jesuits did not wait and, on the initiative of the Bishop of Vilnius Valerijonas Protasevičius, in 1570 founded Vilnius Jesuit College which was soon to be transformed into a university. On 1 April 1579, Stephen Bathory, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania, issued a note of privileges for the opening of Vilnius Academy. On 29 October of the same year, Pope Gregory XIII issued a bull that confirmed the transformation of Vilnius Jesuit College into a university, officially named *Academia et Universitas Vilnensis Societatis Iesu*.

Petras Skarga became the first rector. At the very beginning, the Faculties of Philosophy and Theology were opened. The University became entitled to granting degrees (bachelor, master, doctor) in "theological, metaphysical, physical and logical sciences". In 1641, King Wladislaw Vasa signed a privilege for establishing the Faculties of Law and Medicine.

The level of education at Vilnius University equalled the universities of Prague, Krakow, Vienna or Rome. The subject of modern scholastics was receptive to the ideas of the Renaissance epoch. The University's theologians were also engaged in missionary activities. The 17<sup>th</sup> century martyr Andrius Bobota was the only graduate of Vilnius University to be declared the second saint of Lithuania (after St Casimir). Crowned with laurels for his poetry by Pope Urban VII in 1623, the poet Mathias Casimir Sarbievius taught rhetoric, philosophy and theology at Vilnius University and became the dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology in 1633.



The University clearly had a humanitarian bias, yet this was no obstacle for it to continue to explore other areas as well. Jonas Karolis Chodkevičius distinguished himself in the science of war. The most renowned representative of the Lithuanian school of military engineering Erazmus Semenavičius laid down the idea of multistage rockets in his work *The Great Art of Artillery*. The idea also served as the basis for the modern rocket theory.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century saw natural sciences to flourish in particular at Vilnius University, in the spirit of the Enlightenment. Science was linked to practical activities and public needs. Jean Imanuel Gilibert founded the Botanical Gardens of Vilnius University and wrote the work *Lithuanian Fauna* which consisted of 5 volumes. He is said to be the father of Lithuanian botany. In 1753, the professor of mathematics Tomas Žebrauskas founded the astronomical observatory, one of the first in Europe and the fourth in the world, which, according to the experts, equalled the famous Royal Greenwich Observatory. Later, astronomical research was headed by Marcin Poczubut, rector of the University for many years, a corresponding member of the Sorbonne Academy in Paris, and a member of the Royal London Scientific Society.

The tradition of humanitarian thought did not cease at that time either. At the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it was supplemented by new achievements in historical studies. Joachim Lelewel was the first to embark on the research in the historical theory and methodology at Vilnius University. The research was subsequently headed by Ignas Onacevičius. Among the students of the University was Simonas Daukantas, who wrote the first history of Lithuania in the Lithuanian language. The famous painter Pranciškus Smuglevičius headed the Department of Drawing and Painting, established in 1793, and was the first representative of the classicist style in Lithuania. The artist of the same style Laurynas Gucevičius established the Department of Architecture and designed the Town Hall and the Cathedral in Vilnius.

When the Jesuit order was dissolved in 1773, the management of Vilnius University was taken over by the Education Commission, which focussed a lot of attention on the education of the citizens of the state. The University resolutely supported the Constitution of 3 May 1791, which provided for the abolishment of the political system destroying the liberum veto right and for the introduction of a constitutional monarchy. After the division of the State of Poland and Lithuania among Russia, Prussia and Austria, Vilnius University was the sole guardian and cherisher of the idea of regaining statehood. Illegal Philaret and Philomath Societies were set up at the University. After

they were tracked down, one of the biggest student proceedings in Europe started. A large number of University students fought heroically among the rebels of 1831. On 1 May 1832, the Russian imperial authorities closed the University down.

The insignia of autonomous power – the rector's sceptre, – a gift from the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania Stephen Bathory, was taken away to Saint Petersburg Hermitage Museum and has been kept there until now.

Any attempts of the Lithuanian nobility or intellectuals in general to restore Vilnius University failed against the tsarist self-will. The hope of restitution glimmered only at the end of World War I.

The Council of Lithuania, having declared the restoration of the state of Lithuania on 16 February 1918, on 5 December adopted the statute of Vilnius University.



(Continued next page...)



# VILNIUS UNIVERSITY COINS

(Continued from page 1...)

box, or 75 LTL without the box. In Euros, the price is 26.07 EUR up to 4 coins with the box; 24.77 EUR from 5 to 10 coins; 23.46 EUR from 11 to 20 coins; or 22.16 EUR for 21 coins and above. Without the box the prices are 21.73; 20.64; 19.55; and 18.47 respectively. More information about the coin is found on the [www.lbank.lt](http://www.lbank.lt) website.

The 1 litas coin is circulating at face value.

## VILNIUS UNIVERSITY HISTORY FROM COIN BROCHURE TEXT

(Continued from page 6...)

Its first paragraph announced that the University was "revived from 1 January 1919." Yet following the Red Army's invasion into Lithuania, on 13 March 1919 the Bolsheviks declared about the opening of a Labour University in Vilnius.

The Poles, having reinforced themselves in the capital of Lithuania, on 11 October 1919 officially opened Vilnius University and named it Stephan Bathory University. Lithuania was forced to re-establish the University in its provisional capital Kaunas. This was done on 16 February 1922, in accordance with the statute of Vilnius University. In 1930, the Lithuanian University in Kaunas was given the name of Vytautas Magnus University.

When Lithuania regained Vilnius in 1939, the University was soon restored. In less than one year the Soviets invaded and began sovietising Vilnius University, whereas the German occupiers closed it down completely on 17 March 1943. After the return of the Soviets in the summer of 1944 Vilnius University renewed its activities, although academic freedom was restrained, learning and studies were separated from the Western world. Yet even under conditions of occupation, Vilnius University managed to endure ideological supervision.

Today, when a large number of universities have opened up in Lithuania, Vilnius University still remains the most solid establishment of education. It has 12 faculties, 8 institutes, 10 study and research centres, and old library (established in 1570), an astronomical observatory, botanical gardens, an international business school, etc. --**Dr. ZENONAS BUTKUS.**"



## VILNIUS HOARD BOOK REVIEW 7.

(Continued from page 5...)

not help but infer that the imperial eagle was automatically assumed to represent the Polish kingdoms. This spinal reflex among Lithuanians has to stop! For all we know at this point in time, the eagle on this coin may be the Hungarian Turul. Point in fact, the Roman imperial eagle has, is and will continue to be used throughout Europe as well as the Americas. It would more intelligent for us to study why medieval Italians, Germans, Poles, the Napoleonic French as well as the colonist of the America's latched on to the Roman imperial eagle for a coat of arms.

One senses an anti-Jogalia, anti-"Russian", anti-"Polish" bias in the designation of obverse and reverse. Oh, yes, it is very easy to sit on this side of the Atlantic where there is no possibility that foreign chauvinism could result in occupation, torture and death. But truth still is the best weapon both defensively and offensively against ridiculous political propaganda.

One aspect of the report that is most gratifying are maps of contemporary Lithuania and of the medieval Lithuanian Empire showing locations of previous finds of each variety of coins found in this hoard. One not wants to see a book comparing the coins of this find with the coins known previously to see what additional information has been uncovered.

Remecas's report also presents another instance where information just begs to be pulled together, expanded and additional inferences forwarded. On page 8 is a map locating the area of the Lower Castle where the hoard was found. The map shows an earlier foundation and which was not used for the buildings standing currently. Further, we are informed that some of the coins were stuck together (were they stacked at the time of their demise?), and that they were in a strata of charred soil. Might these bits of information suggest the possibility that the area where the coins were found was the Lithuanian Treasury and was burned down when Lord Vytautas with the Teutonic Order laid siege to Vilnius in 1390?

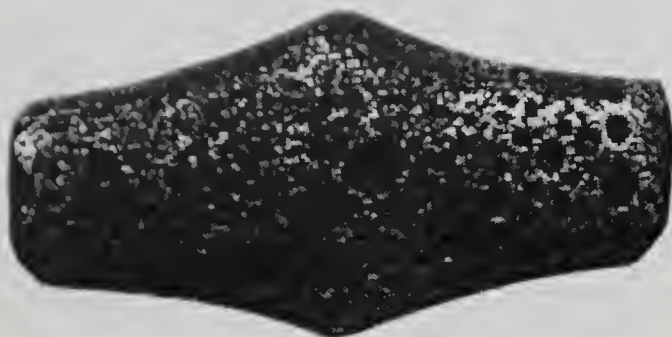
Clearly, these 63 coins will be studied for a long time to come, additional reports of this research will come forth and they will surely expand not only medieval Lithuanian numismatics, but will also contribute to our understanding of early Lithuanian history.

Again, Remecas's report is a must-have for every numismatists who in interested in medieval Lithuanian numismatics.

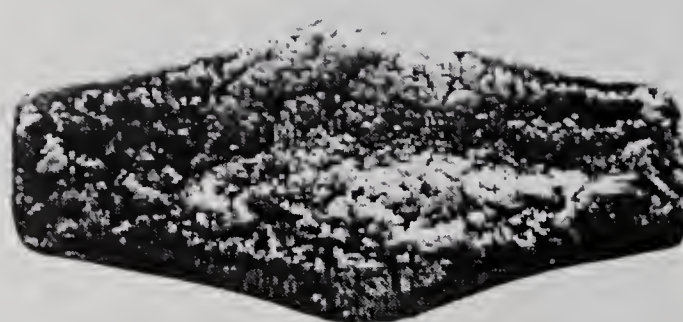




## MEANING OF THE WORD KAPA (Continued from page 3...)



Top view



Bottom view

Ukrainian Kiev ingot, about 2,433 grains (157.6 grams), 80 x 38 x 9 mm.

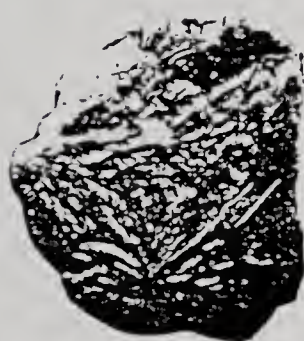


Top view



Side view

Tartar ingot, about 3,202 grains (207.5 grams), 108 x 20 x 18 mm.



Top view



Bottom view

Bulgar ingot, about 821 grains (53.2 grams), 40 x 35 x 6 mm.

Full size examples of other types of silver ingots cast along the trade route between the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.

This suggests that the ingots produced Novgorod were meant for export, and not internal coinage.

Taken together, historical evidence and logic suggest that most of the silver coins brought into Lithuania were refined into ingots for export and also to serve as raw material for silver items produced in country. Thus, the more probable hypothesis is the that the word KAPA as used by medieval Lithuanians meant a 'heap' and not something you 'chop'.

### Sources

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- 5) Karys, Jonas. *Senovės Lietuvių pinigai, istorija ir numizmatika*. Bridgeport, Connecticut 1959.



# BALZEKAS MUSEUM OF LITHUANIAN CULTURE GIFT SHOP ITEMS 9.

6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629. (773) 582-6500. E-mail: giftshop@lithuanianmuseum.org

Shipping costs: \$4.99 for order \$1-\$50; \$5.95 for order \$51-\$95; \$7.95 for order \$100+.

## OTHER SILVER PROOF COINS, \$60 each.

2004 Vilnius University 50 Litu (call/e-mail to confirm inventory).

2003 dated Athens Summer Olympics (2004) 50 Litu featuring bicyclists.

2000 50 Litu Vytautas.

1998 5 Litas UNICEF children.

1998 50 Litu Algirdas.

1998 50 Litu Adomas Mickevičius

1996 50 Litu Atlanta Olympics.

## OTHER

1993

Darius-Girėnas 10 Litu cupro-nickel \$60.

1994 10 Litu cupro-nickel song festival \$18.

1995 10 Litu cupro-nickel Sports Games \$18.

1999 GOLD 10 Litu "smallest gold coin" \$95

2002 5 Litai silver proof Barn Owl \$60.

2003 Mindaugas GOLD & SILVER 200 Litu proof.

CALL Mr. Balzekas at Museum or e-mail: president@lithuanianmuseum.org



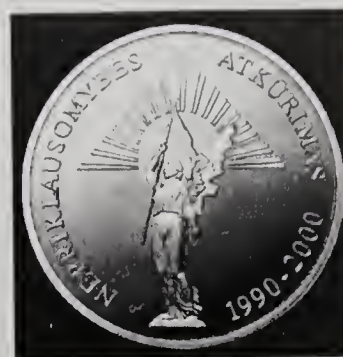
50 Litas Coin \$60 #525  
Silver 925 Mintage 1500 pcs  
Trakai Island Castle. Issued in 2002  
Designed by V. Poliksa and R. J. Belevicius



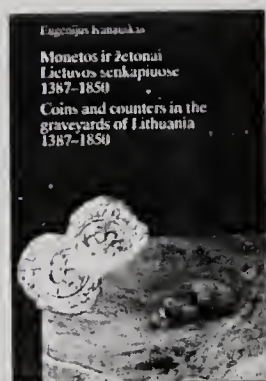
50 Litas Coin \$60 #888  
Silver 925 Issued in 2003  
to commemorate Vilnius Cathedral. From the series "Historical and Architectural Monuments of Lithuania".

**NEW**

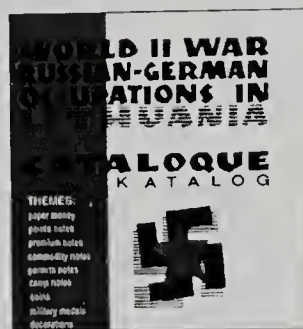
IT'S IDEAL GIFT -- KEEPSAKE



50 Litas Coin \$60 #523  
Silver 925 Mintage 3000 pcs  
Issued in 2000 to mark the 10th anniversary of Lithuania's Independence. Designed by G. Karalius



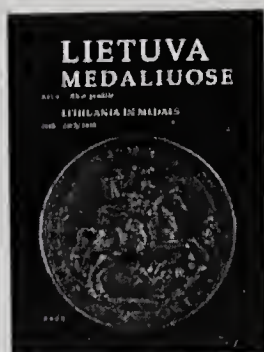
**Coins and Counters in the Graveyards of Lithuania 1387-1850.**  
By E. Ivanauskas. Lists over 200 graveyards and coins and counters found in them. Published by Savastis, Vilnius, 2001. 225 pages. In Lithuanian.  
\$28 #113



**World War II Russian-German Occupations in Lithuania**  
Paper money, punke notes, food cards, war bonds, lottery tickets, medals, coins, permits, etc. Excellent guide to collectibles from the WWII occupations in the Baltics. About 80% of the material is from German occupation. In English.  
\$35 #340

## Lithuania in Medals. 16th - early 20th centuries

Portraits of sovereigns and knights, medals dedicated to various societies, church medals and much more. VAGA, Lithuania, 1998. 221 pages.



**NEW**

\$65 #110

**1 Litas**  
Size: 135x65 mm  
With original signature of the designer, Giedrius Jonaitis.  
Limited quantity!

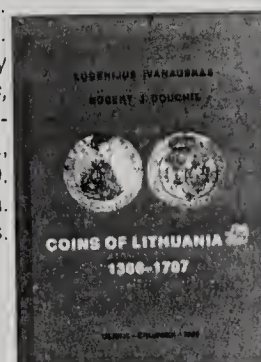
\$100 #611



## Coins of Lithuania 1386-1707

By Eugenijus Ivanauskas and Robert J. Douchis. Published by Savastis, Vilnius-Columbia, 1999. In English. 271 pages.

\$57.50  
#114



## For Merits to Lithuania. Orders and Medals of the Republic of Lithuania 1918-1940.

By Vilius Kavaliauskas. Published by VAGA, Vilnius, 2001. With photos, 505 pages. Lithuanian and English descriptions of Lithuanian orders and medals and their famous recipients.  
\$95 #111



## Lietuvos ordinais, medaliai ir zenkleliai 1918-1940 Lithuanian Orders, Medals, Pins 1918-1940.

By Algimantas Astikas. Published by Mintis, Vilnius, 1993. In Lithuanian. 397 pages.

\$35 #332



**Lithuanian Coin Set 2003. Lietuvos monetų rinkinys**  
5, 2, and 1 litas; 50, 20, and 10 centu  
\$35 #946

2000 Coin Set \$25.



## 10. LITHUANIAN PARTISAN RE-ENACTORS GROUP FORMED

Exactly 60 years ago, the Russians again reoccupied Lithuania. Having already experienced the murders, rapes, deportations and plunders of the first Russian communist occupation 1940-1941, the Lithuanian resistance movement, begun in 1940 and continuing throughout the Nazi occupation, intensified. Men took up arms to fight native and foreign communists in the firm belief that Americans would honor their often proclaimed ideals of freedom and national self-determination and get rid of Stalin once they were finished with Hitler. Little did anyone know that at Yalta, to reward Stalin for the Russian blood spilt in defeating the Nazis in the east, Roosevelt gave the Russians the Baltics and carte blanche influence in the eastern half of Europe - for a specific period of time!

Regardless, masses of partisans organized themselves in the forests as a continuation of the pre-war Lithuanian Army. For every partisan in the forests, there were at least ten Lithuanians remaining in civilian life who supported them. Only by totally impoverishing the entire nation, were the Russians able to stop our freedom fighters. But Lithuanians continued to resist economically and culturally.

With the terms of the Yalta agreement expiring in the 1980's, Lithuanians continued their half-century of resistance by reasserted national independence. Partisan leaders were posthumously promoted to ranks of general and colonel and awarded medals for their valor. Monuments were erected, schools were named for partisans and numerous books recording their history have already appeared and more are being published.

To honor these, our national heroes, LNA director Aleksandras Radžius has organized

Lithuanian Partisan (1944-1954) Re-enactors in the spring of 2004 as an educational group. With the help of LNA member and re-enactor Henry Gaidis and LNA supporter and re-enactor Jaunutis Burbulis, a partisan exhibit had been prepared for the annual Baltimore Lithuanian Festival this past May. Other functions planned are presentations in Philadelphia, Connecticut and at the annual Reading Pennsylvania Air Show.

LNA members and all who read *The Knight* and having Russian banknotes from the 1944-1954 period are asked to contact Alex Radžius at [A.N.Radziai@erols.com](mailto:A.N.Radziai@erols.com) for either purchasing them or receive electronic scans so as to round out our historical display.



LEFT: Three members of the newly formed Lithuanian Partisan Re-enactors Group. Left to right: Vince (Vaisikauskas) Vaise, Aleksandras Radžius and Ignas Kyzala.

Photo by Partisan Re-enactor Vytautas Brasauskas

**THE KNIGHT**, Volume 26, No. 5. Issue #141. May-June 2004. The official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Aleksandras Radžius, Baltimore, MD., DIRECTOR. Frank Passic, Albion, Michigan, EDITOR.

Subscription/membership to Volume 26 (5 issues) a donation of \$15 or more. This issue concludes Volume 26. Volume 27 will begin with the September-October issue. Please renew your memberships this summer. Write: Alex Radžius, Lithuanian Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 22696, Baltimore, MD 21203. E-mail: [Lithnumis@hotmail.com](mailto:Lithnumis@hotmail.com).

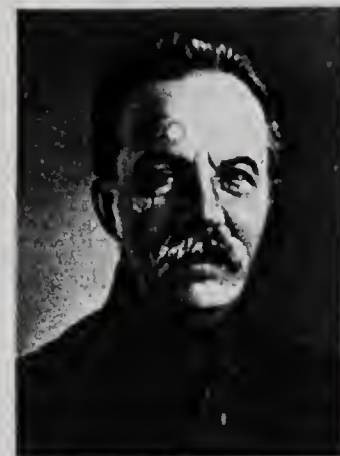
EDITOR'S ADDRESS: Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224. E-mail: [Albionfp@hotmail.com](mailto:Albionfp@hotmail.com)

FOR BACK ISSUES: Write: Sarunas Mingela, 46707 Stratford Court, Northville, MI 48167. The LNA is a member of the American Numismatic Association C-117903.

## GIEDRAITIS PHOTO

In our November-December 2003 issue we featured a letter by Richard Giedroyc (Giedraitis) regarding a silver commemorative coin issued by the Moldova Republic honoring Konstantin K. Giedrois, a famous Soviet soil scientist who won the Lenin Prize in science in 1927.

Richard has supplied us with a photograph of the acclaimed Giedraitis, which we are illustrating here.



**KONSTANTIN  
GIEDRAITIS  
1872-1932**